



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

"I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."
~ Christopher Reeve

Friday, March 28, 2008

Several facilities are using the peer review process to solve issues they have experienced by using best practices from around the DOC. All staff are encouraged to embrace the process to improve effectiveness and continue the excellence demonstrated throughout the DOC.

The U.S. Department of Labor recently awarded eight staff from Indiana State Prison with Apprenticeship Certifications. Indiana State Prison is the only facility with staff, offenders, and PEN products working with the U.S. Department of Labor in the Apprenticeship Program.

Plainfield Correctional Facility recently held its first PLUS graduation for 28 offenders. Commissioner Donahue gave the keynote address, graduates gave testimonies, and the PLUS band played inspirational songs.

Edinburgh Correctional Facility recently held an art contest in celebration of Black History Month. The winning drawing was a collage of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.

Fourteen criminal justice students from Brown-Mackie College toured Westville Correctional Facility's PEN Products shops, the Education department, and the Westville Control Unit to observe and discuss the programs.

Indiana State Prison's Minimum Security Unit recently held a GED, Literacy, Life Skills, and Computer Business graduation. Commissioner Donahue, Director Burch, and Director Cox congratulated the honorees.

Calamari Productions finished up filming several episodes for the MSNBC series "Lockup" at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. The film crew captured the daily routine, programs, and life inside the facility, and the episodes scheduled to air later this year will focus on the Future Soldiers program, treatment, education, and staff.

Members of the Plainfield Re-entry Educational Facility's Toastmasters Urban Gavel Club presented checks worth \$200 to Sheltering Wing's Women's Shelter and to St. Mark's Episcopal Food Pantry. The donation was made possible by a fundraiser held earlier in the month.

Youths at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility participated in writing seminars as part of the facility's quarterly Fun Day. Several students wrote letters to American troops deployed in Iraq.

Commissioner Donahue was presented a "Lock Award" by the staff of Indiana State Prison for his "key" leadership in "unlocking" the future of the IDOC. The lock is over 100 years old and was removed during prison renovation.

A Vulnerability Assessment Team consisting of approximately twenty DOC staff recently visited Pendleton Correctional Facility. The team was to identify and correct potential security issues in order to eliminate the opportunity for an escape or major security breach.

Branchville Correctional Facility will be recognized by the Perry County Animal Shelter in an open house ceremony. Branchville provides offender labor to assist in the daily cleaning and upkeep of the facility.

The PEN Products Board of Directors recently held its first meeting of 2008 at the PEN Central Office. Commissioner Donahue, members of DOC Executive Staff, and representatives from IDOA, the private industry, the Office of Management and Budget, and Purdue University attended the meeting and provided direction to the team.

In conjunction with "Operation DOC Cares," Correctional Industrial Facility staff has donated non-perishable items for five staff members currently serving in the military. Five boxes will soon be shipped out containing items such as disposable cameras, phone cards, pens, paper, and snacks.

Staff and offenders from the Indiana Women's Prison's PLUS Program made and donated 860 pink ribbons to be worn by participants in the American Cancer Society's "Race for the Cure."

Putnamville Correctional Facility offenders recently purchased approximately \$1900 of Kentucky Fried Chicken. A portion of the proceeds was donated to the Away Home Shelter, and the remainder went to the PLUS program.